



MITSUBISHI RALLIART EVOLUTION CHALLENGE

UK



NEWSLETTER

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Kielder at the double

Four weeks after the first trip to Kielder Forest we're all set to do it again this weekend, when we head to Carlisle for round three and the Pirelli Rally. This is only the second time the Evo Challenge has been hosted by this event, the previous occasion being 2006 when we joined the British Championship for a season.

But just to recap on the Border Counties Rally: It was a second win for Daniel Barry and Martin Brady and another second place for Simon Hughes, this time partnered by Craig Parry - and if it wasn't for the penalties applied for hitting the chicanes, things may well have been different. Owen Murphy and Dai Roberts had a better handling car this time round and, after being caught out in the fog on Friday night, finished third.

Alan Carmichael and Ivor Lamont were also slowed by the fog and finished fourth, but the recent purchase of a brand new Evo IX could well make a difference for their second visit to Kielder. Nik Elsmore and Craig Drew got themselves into a few scrapes and were relieved to get to the finish in fifth. However, with just five cars out - well done to all for making it to the finish. Fingers crossed for a similar outcome at the Pirelli!

Round two results

1 Daniel Barry/Martin Brady	59:09.9
2 Simon Hughes/Patrick Walsh	59:46.4
3 Owen Murphy/Dai Roberts	1:03:22.4
4 Alan Carmichael/Ivor Lamont	1:05:08.4
5 Nik Elsmore/Craig Drew	1:05:53.0

Other awards

Walkinshaw best improvement on seeding:	Alan Carmichael
Sunoco Spirit Award:	Owen Murphy
JR Motorsports best prepared car:	Owen Murphy

Sad news

I am sure that most of you in the Evo Challenge fraternity will be aware that Rex Paddock, who has prepared Nik Elsmore's car throughout his six seasons in the Evolution Challenge, was tragically killed when his Microlite aircraft came down last Saturday 5th April. His presence in the service area will be sadly missed, but none more so than by Nik and his team.

On behalf of all of us involved with the Evolution Challenge and at Mitsubishi UK, we extend our sincere condolences. We are delighted to hear that Nik will be continuing his 2009 campaign.

Pirelli Rally

It's the famous five again for this one. We were hoping for more, but the Swedes have the second round of their championship next week and our Icelandic friend Daniel Sigurdarson will be contesting the International category in a brand new Evo X.

Before the event, I know that some competitors wanted to enter the International and we would have then just counted the times for the eight stages on Saturday. As it turned out, this wasn't possible and, having split the entries across the International and National events at last weekend's Circuit of Ireland (rounds 3 & 4 of the Irish Evo Challenge), I am now glad that we didn't. Confusing isn't the word! So thanks to all for entering the National A rally.

I have been asked by some of you if management cars will be allowed on this one. I have just had it confirmed that they will not! Apparently organisers are concerned that outside assistance for National runners may migrate to the International field.

As usual, there are a few things not to forget: Decals - please make sure these are in place. Service area - please park in the area designated for the Evo Challenge. Prizegiving has been arranged for 8.00 pm at the Racecourse. If you would prefer that prizes are handed out on the ramp, please let me know and I'll see what we can do to make this happen.

Overseas Evo Challenges

Just to keep you posted: Following the first round in Sweden Markus Hällbo/Lars Gustafsson currently lead the Challenge over there, whilst in Ireland, after the first four rounds (two double-headers), Liam Egan leads the driver's table, with Sean Ferris and Greg Shinnors topping the co-driver's on equal points.

For those of you who are going, I look forward to seeing you in Carlisle.



Championship positions after rd. 1

Drivers

1	Daniel Barry	24
2	Simon Hughes	20
3	Owen Murphy	14
4	Nik Elsmore	13
5	Alan Carmichael	12
6	Andreas Magnusson	8
7	Neil Armstrong	4

Co-drivers

1	Martin Brady	24
2	Dai Roberts	14
3	Craig Drew	13
4	Ivor Lamont	12
5	Patrick Walsh	10
6	Craig Parry	10
7	Henrik Hulterskog	8
8	Max Ferri	4

PIAA Junior Award

1	Daniel Barry	10
2	Owen Murphy	8

